

NSA Adds 20 Colleges Despite Expose of CIA

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CPYRGHT

Demands that the National Student Association close its doors, raised at the time of the sensational expose of its covert relationship with the CIA, have been nearly forgotten at NSA's headquarters here.

W. Eugene Groves, president of NSA, said in an interview yesterday that only two colleges had quit the student organization since the revelation last February of its 15-year history of secret subsidies from the CIA. The two were Brandeis and Colorado State.

But in the same period, 20 colleges and universities joined NSA who had not previously been members, pushing its total membership well over 300 campuses. Joiners ranged from Clemson to the University of Denver.

"We're a lot stronger than we were before," said Groves,

a 23-year-old former Rhodes scholar. "More people know about us and we have some new sources of financial support."

In a relaxed mood at the now strangely calm NSA headquarters, Groves cited two factors that he felt were keys in maintaining the support of the members. The first was the officers' decision "to admit the whole thing" after the story broke in Ramparts magazine. The second was the revelation of NSA's previous attempts to disentangle itself from the Central Intelligence Agency.

But he feels a serious challenge lies ahead at the NSA congress this August at the University of Maryland. With reservation running at twice

the rate of last year, more than 1000 delegates are expected.

Richard Stearns, international affairs vice president, predicts that a vocal minority will try to convince the Assembly that the NSA officers still maintain covert ties with the CIA. He believes they will argue that the NSA should disband and start anew.

But Stearns maintains that soundings he has taken on 40 campuses since the blow-up indicate that those who favor folding the organization will be voted down by an overwhelming margin.

Yet he admitted there would be strong support for reforms to ensure full disclosure of NSA's sources of support and to make the national organization more responsive to grass roots desires.

Irrelevant Programs

One result of the CIA's infiltration of the student organization, Stearns went on, was that three-fourths of the staff eventually became involved with international programs that had "little relevance" to campus needs of many members.

Although the NSA supervisory board voted last month to continue the international affairs program, Stearns does not expect it will ever again assume the same proportions as it did during the "student cold war."

The articulate 22-year-old vice-president, formerly an undergraduate at the University of Chicago, is now at work on a book about the student cold war politics.

He said his research indicates that the CIA support of NSA began in 1950, with a \$12,000 grant from "undisclosed sources" to send a team of students to Europe and Africa to study student groups.

Only Lease Unbroken

At the height of its involvement, the CIA provided 80 per cent of the NSA's annual budget and used its staffers to gather intelligence on student leaders abroad.

Groves said the organization has now broken all ties with the CIA, except for a

complicated CIA-arranged lease for a row house that the NSA headquarters staff occupies at 2115 S St. NW. If the lease cannot be straightened out before the congress meets in August, NSA will move out, the officers said.

The staff has had to tighten its belt, somewhat, particularly cutting back on travel, Groves said. But some new sources of funding are flowing in.

NSA received a \$250,000 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity for a student tutorial program in poverty areas. An \$80,000 grant from the U.S. Office of Education was recently renewed, providing funds for student efforts to gain more voice in development and evaluation of course offerings.

The State Department has furnished \$60,000 for programs in Asia, Africa and Algeria.

The Stern Family Fund provided \$35,000 for educational experiments in which students would be given college credit for off-campus work in such activities as civil rights or the poverty programs. Another private grant of \$3000 will be used for an investigation of the use of drugs on the campus.

Request Turned Down

However, the Ford Foundation turned down three weeks ago NSA's request for two grants totaling \$330,000. One would have financed a kind of reverse Peace Corps, using foreign students who are studying at American universities as "corpsmen" in big city slums during their summer vacations. The other would have sponsored an international exchange program among students interested in educational reform.